

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS, PARKS & RECREATION
VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

TIMBER HARVESTING
STREAM CROSSING PROTOCOL

3/24/03

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this protocol is to clarify the requirements for addressing the stream alteration regulatory program review of new timber harvesting related stream crossing structures. This is not intended to apply to fords (at grade truck road crossings). Stream alteration regulatory review is only applied to fords subject to 10 V.S.A., Chapter 41 (on 10 square mile streams or greater and involving greater than 10 cubic yards of earthwork to construct and/or maintain) since truck fords of permanent streams are not allowed under the Acceptable Management Practices for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont (AMP's). Timber harvesting stream crossings constructed, operated and maintained according to the provisions of this protocol and any pertinent regulatory actions will be considered consistent with the goals of the AMP's.

PROCEDURE:

Subject to the provisions of VT Department of Environmental Conservation 401 Certification of the amended Section 404 Vermont General Permit (GP#58), and 10 V.S.A. Section 4607, proposed timber harvest related stream crossings will require prior approval by the Stream Alteration Engineer if:

- a. the proposed crossing is located at a point on a stream where the drainage area is greater than one square mile and the crossing structure does not maintain the existing stream bed material and elevation. Ex. (A 5 sq. mile stream drainage accessed by a temporary bridge or three sided box culvert is exempt); or
- b. the proposed crossing is located at a point on a stream where the drainage area is greater than one square mile and the structure (of any type) will not be removed at the time of completion of the current timber harvest treatment (Permanent crossings for under 1 sq. mi. does not need a permit); or
- c. the proposed crossing is not consistent with the AMP's for Maintaining Water Quality on Logging Jobs in Vermont.

If the proposed crossing falls into any of the three categories above, the forester/logger/landowner is obligated to contact the Stream Alteration Engineer to schedule a site visit and to provide a completed *Application for Approval for*

Stream Crossing Structure including a sketch plan and profiles (roadway and stream channel) of the proposed crossing and supporting information.

The application, plan, profiles and supporting information (complete information) must include:

- a. the size (length along the stream, span length, opening size, etc.) and type of structure including any structural treatments, stone fill, headwalls, etc.,
- b. extent of cuts and fills along the crossing approaches in close proximity to the stream and in the channel,
- c. roadway approach grade slopes and any proposed changes in the stream channel bed longitudinal slope,
- d. existing and proposed channel dimensions
- e. elevations of structural elements (headwalls, stringers, etc.) relative to streambed and top of bank
- f. watershed size above the location of the crossing
- g. anticipated length of time of service and date of removal, unless proposed as permanent
- h. USGS location map

Sketch plans and profiles, except in special cases, may generally be provided based on tape and hand level accuracy field survey data. If not drawn to scale, all dimensions and elevations must be noted on the drawings.

It is recommended that the project manager contact the Stream Alteration Engineer and conduct a site inspection prior to preparing the supporting information and plans so that the review process can proceed efficiently.

If more than 15 days passes from the time complete information describing the proposed crossing (a-h above) has been received by the Stream Alteration Engineer and a written decision has not been issued, the project proposal may proceed without the regulatory action.

Even in the absence of any regulatory action by the Stream Alteration Engineer, construction, operation, and use of the crossing shall be subject to the requirements of VT Water Quality Standards and 10 V.S.A. Section 4607 regarding maintenance of fish passage.